

WSDOT I-5 Construction in Downtown Seattle

Edition 17, June 23, 2005

In this issue:

- I-5 Seattle construction this weekend: try the express lanes and plan your trip to the Eastside carefully
- Roanoke Noise Walls Celebration
- Southbound I-5 signs improved
- About this e-mail

I-5 Seattle construction this weekend: try the express lanes and plan your trip to the Eastside carefully

Last weekend construction crews completed southbound I-5 pavement rehabilitation on lanes and shoulders between Union and University Streets. Thanks to you and other drivers, last weekend's traffic on southbound I-5 moved far faster than the worst-case scenario our engineers had calculated. Our extra Incident Response Teams who were on duty all weekend helped more than one hundred drivers on I-5 and I-405, which also helped keep traffic moving.

Crews will be back out this weekend to finish the third of four major construction weekends on southbound I-5 through downtown Seattle. Only one lane of mainline I-5 will be open through downtown. In addition, many downtown southbound I-5 on- and off-ramps and the collector-distributor lanes — which connect southbound I-5 to I-90 — will be closed all weekend.

All lanes and ramps are expected to reopen by 5 a.m. Monday, June 27. For more details about the closures, alternate routes, detours, construction progress, and real-time traffic information, please visit our project [Web site](#).

As we did during previous southbound I-5 makeover construction weekends, we'll keep the express lanes open all weekend for southbound traffic. If you need to drive into or through downtown this weekend, **we recommend the express lanes**. They may cut as many as 20 minutes from your drive time. Drivers can enter the express lanes southbound from mainline I-5 north of Northgate; 103rd Street at Northgate; NE 65th Street; NE 42nd Street; and Mercer Street. Downtown Seattle exits are located at Mercer Street; Stewart Street; Pike Street (HOV only); and Columbia Street (HOV only).

Drivers traveling northbound through downtown Seattle should expect congestion and consider taking I-405 or SR 99 because the express lanes will operate southbound all weekend long.

If you need to travel from **southbound I-5 to the Eastside, we recommend I-405 or State Route 520** (Evergreen Point Floating Bridge). And please plan your route in advance and check [real-time traffic information](#) before you hit the road.

If you have questions or comments about construction noise on this project, please call our **24-hour noise hotline at (206) 768-9052**.

Roanoke Noise Walls Celebration

Huddled under a tent to escape the rain, Representative Ed Murray, project director Maureen Sullivan, community representative Colleen McGrath, and citizens from surrounding communities celebrated the newly finished [Harvard Avenue noise walls](#) and the upcoming Boylston Avenue walls on Wednesday. Each speaker also highlighted their appreciation for the cooperative effort between the Department of Transportation, the Roanoke/Eastlake/North Capitol Hill communities, and the state Legislature.

The groundbreaking and ribbon cutting event was attended by a number of dedicated community members, Speaker of the House Frank Chopp, the WSDOT project team, members of the Mowat and Wilder construction firms and Secretary of Transportation Doug MacDonald. [KUOW](#) and KOMO 1000 reporters also attended.

Southbound I-5 signs improved

Drivers have told us that the series of signs that direct them to I-90, Dearborn, 4th Avenue, and Airport Way on southbound I-5 through downtown Seattle can be confusing. Starting tonight, our maintenance crews are [working nights](#) to replace overhead signs to make it easier for drivers to identify ramps to I-90 and various downtown streets more easily.

Crews will close ramps and lanes in the downtown Seattle tonight (Thursday, June 23). Expect more nighttime lane and ramp closures during the summer as the crews continue their work.

About This E-mail

If you received this message from someone else, sign up to receive it directly: i5Seattle@wsdot.wa.gov, "subscribe" in subject line